

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hannah Miller House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

William Joseph House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northwest side of Route 747 northeast
of intersection with Route 809

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mossy Creek

VICINITY OF

6th (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Augusta

CODE

015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Louise Joseph

STREET & NUMBER

640 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Harrisonburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Augusta County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Staunton

STATE

Virginia 24401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hannah Miller House is a rare Virginia variant of a Continental house type, the one-cell bank house commonly found in Pennsylvania. The rubble stone structure is two stories tall, set on a full, but not fully excavated, basement. There is a single opening in each story on each of three sides, except in the main (downhill) facade of the first story, which has two bays of openings. On the fourth (uphill or west) side is an exterior gable-end chimney. Entrance to the basement is at grade, and entrance to the first floor is through a door in the gable, approached by a porch. The windows are glazed with 6/6 sash. Characteristic of many European-derived stone houses of Pennsylvania and Virginia, the uphill eaves are returned by a whitewashed ashlar piece set into and flush with the exterior surface of the gables on the uphill (west) end. The east facade eaves have been reworked to match the early 20th-century frame wing attached to the north side of the house. The latter, a three-bay, gable-roofed structure with a central stove flue and 6/6 sash, is of little architectural interest. Another exterior feature worth noting is the wide cellar door with its four vertical beaded boards and its long strap hinges with button finials.

As one might expect, the little-altered interior of the house, with its single room on each floor, is absolutely plain. The only decorative feature of note is the closed stair in the northeast corner of each level. It also has a handsome vertical-board and horizontal-batten door with long finely crafted strap hinges hung on pintles. A similar door adorns the small closet door under the stairs.

DU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds of this tiny house comprise a small square bounded on the west and east by the edge of the escarpment on which the house sits and by the road respectively. The north and south bounds are imaginary lines drawn perpendicular to the road at the points where the 1300-foot contour diverges from the road. The bounds represent the approximate limits of the house's yard.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hannah Miller House is the only known Virginia example of a Continental bank house, a Swiss-devised house form employed to take advantage of hilly sites and introduced to America by settlers of German extraction. It stands on part of the tract owned by Henry Miller, founder of the locally renowned Mossy Creek Iron Furnace, and was built ca. 1814 to house Miller's widow Hannah (d. 1823) after the main house was sold. As such, it is an early example of a Stöckli, a small house set aside for retired parents. This is a tradition common in Pennsylvania but like the bank-house form is rare in Virginia.

Henry Miller came from Pennsylvania to Augusta County shortly before the American Revolution and began to acquire large tracts of land. By the time of his death in 1796, he had built a large stone house on his principal 1150-acre tract.

Miller's estate was not divided until 1814, when all of his children had reached majority. The home tract "on the Mossy Creek Glade...generally in the neighborhood of his Iron Works" was purchased by a son, Samuel Miller. However, the elder Miller had stipulated in his will that when the property was sold, the executors should "provide a comfortable house and good garden for my wife at the expense of all my children for her during her life if she remain a widow." The present stone house was apparently built to accommodate her at the time of the settlement. It sits on a hillside and looks across Mossy Creek Glade toward Henry Miller's mansion house.

When Samuel Miller died in 1836, his estate was sold to Henry Keneagy. In 1843 Keneagy was extricated from indebtedness by his father John Keneagy, who bought the property for his daughter and son-in-law but reserved for his wife Mary the right "if she survives him to live and dwell during her life in the (sic) or in any of the houses on the lands." Mary Keneagy may have used the Hannah Miller house.

William Joseph (d. 1941) purchased the property in 1930. His heirs divided the land in 1945, which was the first time that the Henry and Hannah Miller houses had been in separate ownership since they were built. The house is now rental property, presently unoccupied.

VDS/DU

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clem, Gladys. "Old Homes of Augusta County." Augusta County Bulletin, VII no. 2,
(1971).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Augusta County Deed Books 20, 23, 38, 60, 65, 87, 244, 335.

Land Tax Books, 1782, 1814, 1836, 1840, 1846, 1949.

Will Books 1a, 14.

Bucher, Robert C. "The Swiss Bank House in Pennsylvania." Pennsylvania Folklife, XVIII no. 2 (1968-69).

Chappell, Edward A. "Cultural Change in the Shenandoah Valley: Northern Augusta County Houses Before 1861." M.A. Thesis, Univ. of Virginia, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 11.7 67.2 113.0 4.2 4.7 3.1.0

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 700' N of the intersection of State Routes 42 and 809 and 900' NW of village of Mossy Creek; thence extending 100' E to the W side of State Route 747; thence extending 200' SSW along said side of said route; thence extending 100' WNW to 1300' contour line; thence extending 200' NNE along said contour line to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond,

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 19 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

